

What is claimed is:

1. An information encryption device that receives information distributed from an external information source, encrypts the information, stores the encrypted information, and, when using the information, decrypts the encrypted information, said information encryption device including an information processor, comprising:

a unique information storage means for storing a first unique information item that specifies exclusively a predesignated information encryption device and a second unique information item that corresponds to said first unique information item;

an encryption means for encrypting said distributed information that has been received with said first unique information item as an encryption key; and

a decoding means for decoding the information that has been encrypted by said encryption means with a second unique information item as a decoding key.

2. An information encryption device according to claim 1 wherein said unique information storage means is a read-only storage medium that permits only reading of said unique information items that have been stored.

3. An information encryption device according to

claim 1 wherein said encryption key and said decoding key are identical.

4. An information encryption device according to claim 1, further comprising a data storage means for storing information that has been encrypted by said encryption means

5 5. An information encryption device according to claim 4 wherein said data storage means is constituted such that the storage medium into which encrypted information is written is inexchangeably fixed in the information processor.

6. An information encryption device according to claim 4 wherein said storage means is constituted such that a storage medium into which encrypted data are written is interchangeably installed in the information processor.

7. An information encryption device according to claim 1, further comprising a network interface means for taking in said distributed information.

8. An information encryption device according to claim 1 wherein said first unique information item

includes unique information item that is stored before said information processor reaches a user.

9. An information encryption device according to claim 1 wherein said unique information storage means is provided with a register.

10. An information encryption device according to claim 8 wherein said first unique information item is a serial number that is assigned to that information processor.

11. An information encryption method that encrypts, to devices other than a predesignated information processor, distributed information that is distributed from an external information source for the purpose of using said information, comprising the steps of:

defining, as an encryption key, a first unique information item that is not duplicated in devices other than said predesignated information processor;

defining, as a decoding key, a second unique information item that corresponds to said encryption key;

when encrypting said distributed information, encrypting said distributed information with said first unique information item as the encryption key; and

when decoding said encrypted data, decoding said

- 15 encrypted information with said second unique information as the decoding key.

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